

the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Military Academy.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Naval Academy: the Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK, from the Committee on Appropriations, and, the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Armed Services.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to title 46, Section 1295(b), of the U.S. Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy: the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN, at large.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 70-770, appoints the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 93-642, appoints the following Senator to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: the Honorable ROY BLUNT of Missouri, vice the Honorable Kit Bond of Missouri.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are working on a way to move forward on the small business jobs bill. Staff has been working on this today. We have quite a number of amendments on which we are trying to get an agreement. We have not been successful yet. I hope we can be tomorrow because we need to wrap up that bill in anticipation of the work we have to do on passing the continuing resolution for the rest of this fiscal year.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for debate only until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the time from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of a colloquy, and the majority controlling the time from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m., and the majority leader recognized at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. As I indicated, Mr. President, we are working to complete action on the small business jobs bill that Chairman LANDRIEU has been so patient in helping us move forward.

In addition, the text of the long-term CR has been filed in the House and is available for everyone's review. It is on the Internet. People can read it there also. We expect to receive it from the House on Thursday. Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to debate it tomorrow. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator HARKIN, which will not exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is one point on which every Senator agrees, Democrats and Republicans alike: The economic recovery is starting to gain strength, and it is time to focus our attention on reducing deficits and restoring fiscal discipline. The current deficits are unsustainable and present a very real danger to our Nation's future economic prosperity; however, there is sharp disagreement as to how best to achieve that shared goal.

Along with other Democratic Senators, I advocate a balanced approach that includes spending cuts and necessary revenue increases while continuing to make crucial investments in education, infrastructure, and research, the investments that are absolutely essential if we are going to stay competitive in a global economy. We know this approach can work because it is what we did under President Clinton's leadership in the 1990s. That budget at that time created large surpluses and put us on the track to completely eliminating the national debt within a decade. It also created a brief era of shared prosperity with 22 million new jobs and 116 consecutive months of economic expansion.

By contrast most Republican Senators favor an approach that I consider to be unbalanced, unfair, and highly unlikely to succeed. We have now had nearly a week to evaluate the House Republicans' budget proposal for 2012 and beyond—the so-called Ryan budget. Let's look at what this truly radical budget plan would do.

It completely dismantles Medicare and Medicaid.

It concentrates two-thirds of its spending cuts on programs serving the most disadvantaged people in our society, including seniors and people with disabilities, even as it preserves huge subsidies for special interests.

It exempts corporations and wealthy individuals from shared sacrifice in order to bring deficits under control. To the contrary, this Republican tea party plan locks in the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy—tax cuts that were passed 10 years ago when we were looking at budget surpluses as far as the eye could see.

Well, under our present circumstances, the wealthy don't need these tax breaks, and we can't afford them. This budget of Mr. RYAN's and Republicans slashes the tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. That is the lowest level since 1931. Indeed, this so-called deficit reduction plan includes tax cuts that would cost \$2.9 trillion over the next 10 years compared to the CBO baseline, and that is according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Institute.

This tea party budget plan repeals the new health reform law, stripping 34 million nonelderly Americans of health coverage and eliminating all the consumer protections in the law, including the ban on discrimination based on pre-existing conditions.

This budget of the Republicans repeals the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law, allowing financial manipulators to return to the same reckless practices that led to the financial collapse, to the great recession, and to much of our current huge budget deficits.

This budget cuts the maximum Pell grant award even as more students are enrolling in higher education to give themselves the skills they need for the modern economy.

How bizarre that several pundits have called this Republican tea party budget plan "courageous." There is nothing courageous about targeting the most vulnerable people in our society for the overwhelming share of cuts. There is nothing courageous about giving another huge tax cut bonanza to those who have seen their incomes skyrocket in recent years. There is nothing courageous about destroying the retirement security of tens of millions of American seniors, including dismantling Medicare and hacking away at Social Security. There is nothing courageous about gutting Medicaid, the program that millions of seniors and people with disabilities depend on to pay for care such as nursing home care or home health aids.

Let's be clear. There is nothing courageous in this Republican tea party budget. To the contrary, I suggest it is a cowardly budget. It is a bully's budget. In this budget the powerful and the privilege attack the weak and the vulnerable.

We all understand what is going on. Republicans are seizing on the budget crisis as a pretext for ramming through a longstanding ideological wish list. At the State level—in Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, and elsewhere—Republicans are using the budget crisis as a pretext for an assault on public workers, including teachers and firefighters and others. On Capitol Hill they are using it to try